



Temporary Urbanism in England's Core Cities: Looking Beyond the Iconic

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Temporary Urbanism in England's Core Cities: Looking Beyond the Iconic

RSA Annual Conference

G r a z | 2 0 1 6

Michael Martin | Stephen Hincks

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MERCi



Contents:

- Aim and Research Problem
- Defining Temporary Use
- Temporary Use: Spectacular vs. Ordinary
- Methodology
- Models: Headline Results
- Conclusions: So What?



Aim and Research Problem

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Aim and Research Problem

Aim

- To critically assess the role and function of temporary use within England's Core Cities

Research Problem

- There are 'certain types' or 'acceptable' temporary uses as opposed to 'others' – based largely on isolated exceptional cases
- Research concerned with how temporary use practice, discourse and characteristics change over time within specific contexts is a rarity...



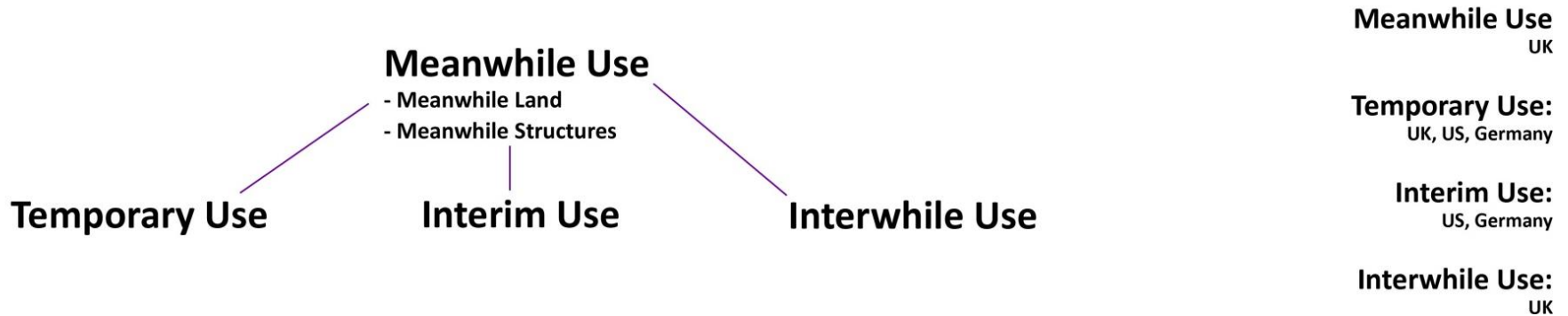
Defining Temporary Use

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Definitional Debacle



Add to that:

Indeterminate Spaces; Insurgent Urbanism; Second Hand Spaces; Make_shift Urbanism; Cultural Brownfields; Intermediate Uses...

Definition Debacle

- **Informal actors** influencing the agenda of urban planning and urban politics by means of temporary appropriation... (*Groth and Corijn, 2005*)
- Urban no-man's-lands [...] of a **non-planned**, spontaneous urbanity (*Andres, 2011*)
- Temporary projects are integrated into an **austerity agenda** so as to keep vacant sites warm while development capital is cool (*Tonkiss, 2013*)
- Short term re-use of an under-utilised, **vacant** or public space (and may include temporary buildings) (*Hubman and Perkovic, 2014*)

Definition Debacle

- They do not need to have a utilitarian purpose [...] they should, however, sit within a clearly thought-out rationale [...] **linked to clear purposeful strategies** (Bishop, 2015)

But Don't forget...

- On vacant lands in depopulating cities, temporary initiatives are **rarely deliberate actions** [...] by the land owner (Desimini, 2015).



Temporary Use: Spectacular vs. Ordinary

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Spectacular – Chocolate Box Temporaries



Spectacular – Chocolate Box Temporaries



Spectacular – Chocolate Box Temporaries



Spectacular – Chocolate Box Temporaries



Spectacular – Chocolate Box Temporaries



Suitable Omissions: The Ordinary



Suitable Omissions: The Ordinary



Suitable Omissions: The Ordinary



Suitable Omissions: The Ordinary



Spectacular vs. Ordinary....

Mundane Temporaries...

“the uses of and different senses of belonging to, unspectacular and ordinary spaces. These mundane landscapes of work, production, consumption and residence are frequently thought of as bland and banal. Their design and architecture are often associated with sameness, homogeneity, or a sense of placelessness” ...

Binnie *et al.* (2007)

Temporary: Realities...



Extraordinary/Chocolate
Box Temporaries

V

Ordinary/Mundane
Temporaries





Methodology

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Beyond the Spectacular – How?

Quantitative

Phase 1) Dataset Construction and Multi-nomial Regression

Stepped Approach:

- *2 Way Main Effects*
- *3 Way Main Effects*
- *2 Way Main Effects + Interactions*
- *3 Way Main Effects + Interactions*

Phase 2) GIS Mapping and Spatial Clustering

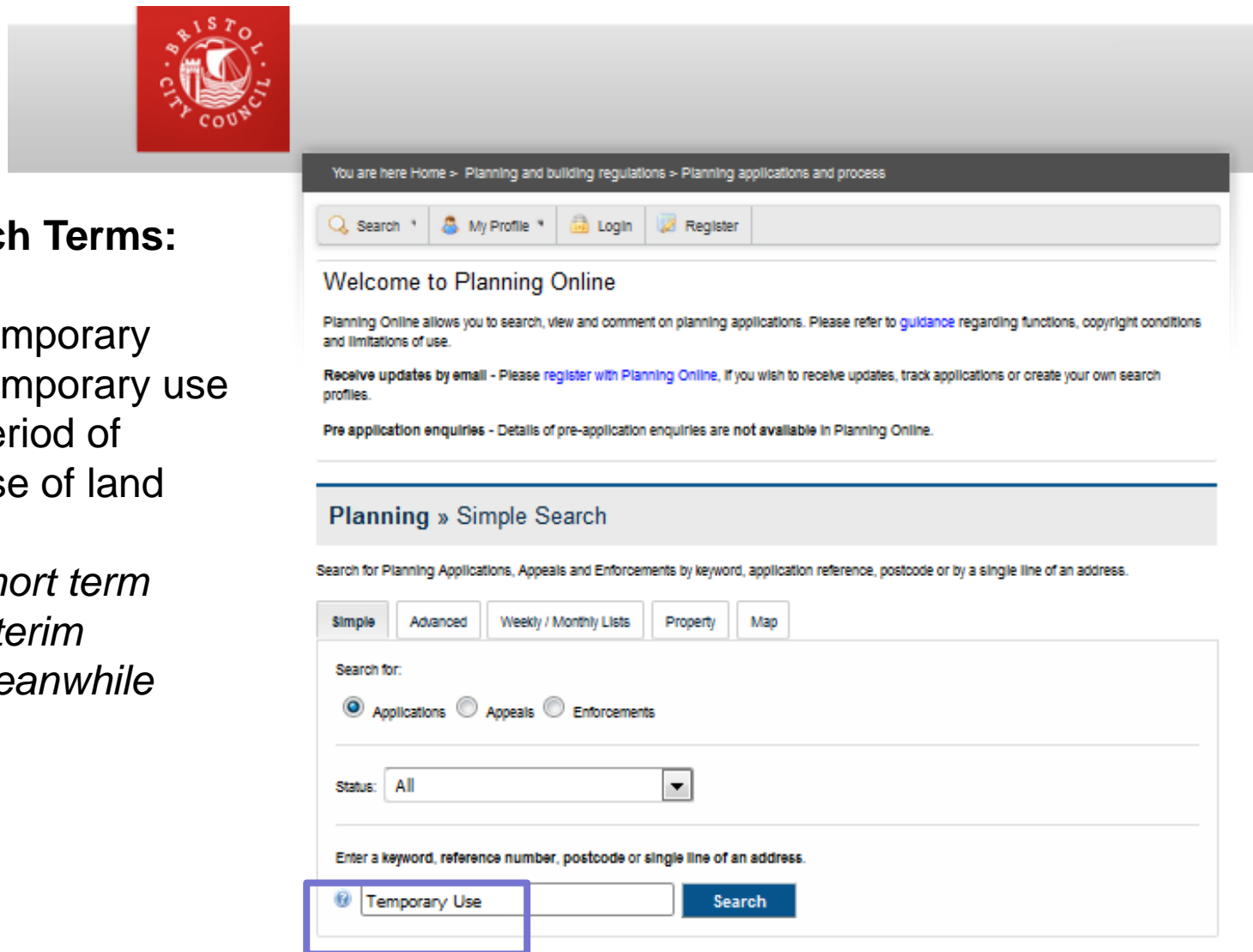
Qualitative

Phase 3) Cluster Based Interviews...

Dataset: Applications for Temporary Use (Formal)

Search Terms:

1. Temporary
2. Temporary use
3. Period of
4. Use of land
5. *Short term*
6. *Interim*
7. *Meanwhile*



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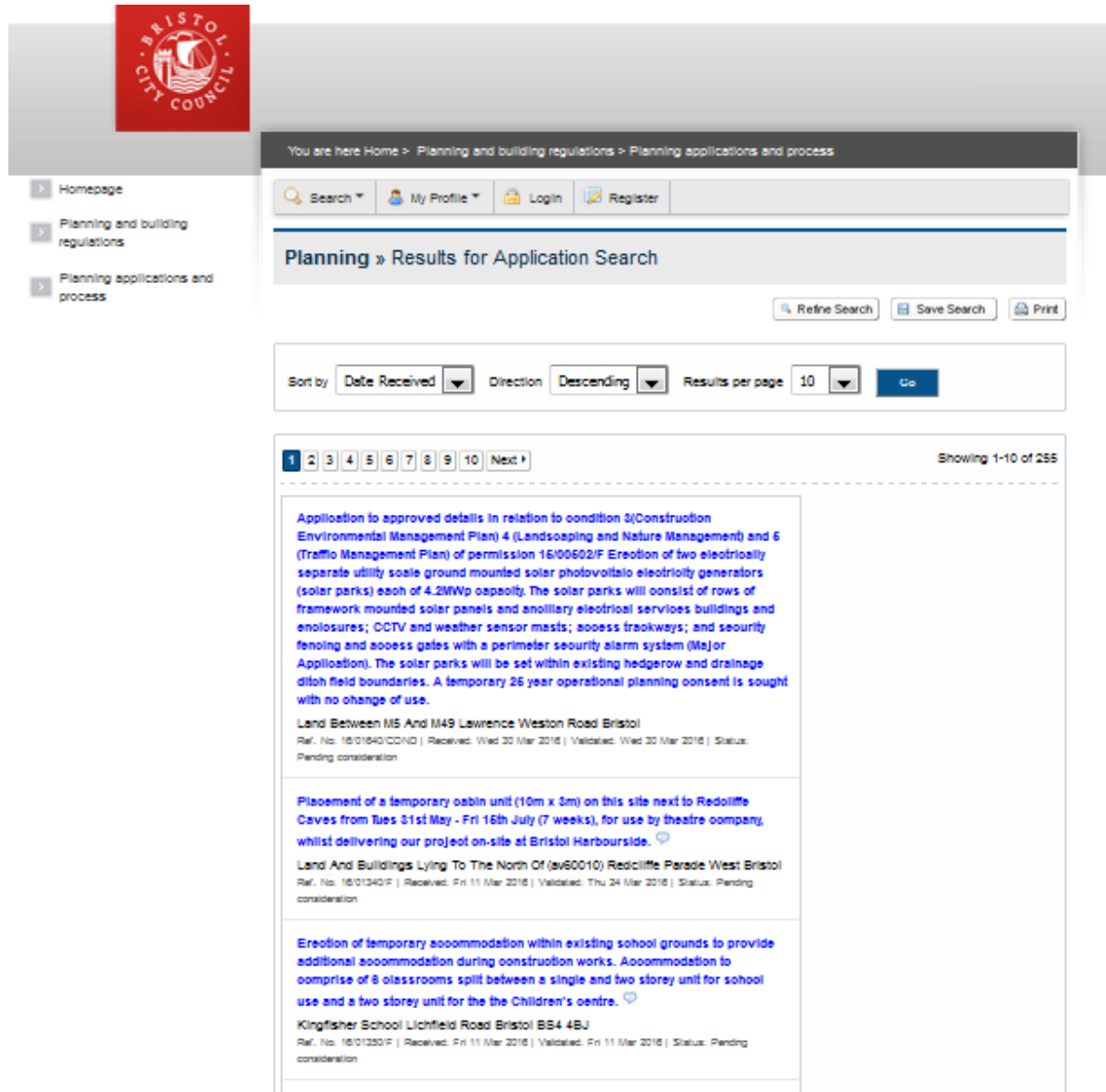
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Search

Dataset: Applications for Temporary Use (Formal)



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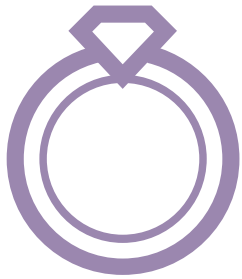
[Application to approved details in relation to condition 3/Construction Environmental Management Plan 4 \(Landscaping and Nature Management\) and 6 \(Traffic Management Plan\) of permission 16/00602/F Erection of two electrically separate utility scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic electricity generators \(solar parks\) each of 4.2MWp capacity. The solar parks will consist of rows of framework mounted solar panels and ancillary electrical services buildings and enclosures; CCTV and weather sensor masts; access trackways; and security fencing and access gates with a perimeter security alarm system \(Major Application\). The solar parks will be set within existing hedgerow and drainage ditch field boundaries. A temporary 25 year operational planning consent is sought with no change of use.](#)
Land Between M5 And M49 Lawrence Weston Road Bristol
 Ref. No: 16/01640/COND | Received: Wed 30 Mar 2016 | Validated: Wed 30 Mar 2016 | Status: Pending consideration

[Placement of a temporary cabin unit \(10m x 3m\) on this site next to Redcliffe Caves from Tues 31st May - Fri 16th July \(7 weeks\), for use by theatre company, whilst delivering our project on-site at Bristol Harbourside.](#)
Land And Buildings Lying To The North Of (av60010) Redcliffe Parade West Bristol
 Ref. No: 16/01340/F | Received: Fri 11 Mar 2016 | Validated: Thu 24 Mar 2016 | Status: Pending consideration

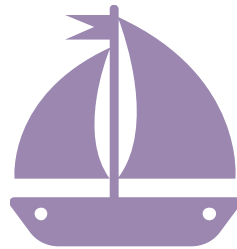
[Erection of temporary accommodation within existing school grounds to provide additional accommodation during construction works. Accommodation to comprise of 8 classrooms split between a single and two storey unit for school use and a two storey unit for the Children's centre.](#)
Kingfisher School Litchfield Road Bristol BS4 4BU
 Ref. No: 16/01330/F | Received: Fri 11 Mar 2016 | Validated: Fri 11 Mar 2016 | Status: Pending consideration

Temporary Use Applications (Formal): England's Core Cities

5883 Planning Applications for Temporary Use between 2000-2015 within:



Birmingham



Bristol



Leeds



Liverpool



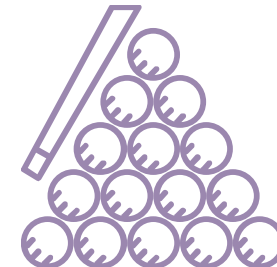
Manchester



Newcastle



Nottingham



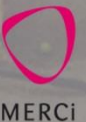
Sheffield



Models: Headline Results

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Why Model?

1. To test across the Core Cities the extent to which Iconic and Mundane Temporary Uses (Dependent) differ based on their underlying characteristics (Independents).
2. Model built to focus on main effects and interactions associated with Temporary Use practices.

Dependant Variable: Type



Mundane
Temporaries

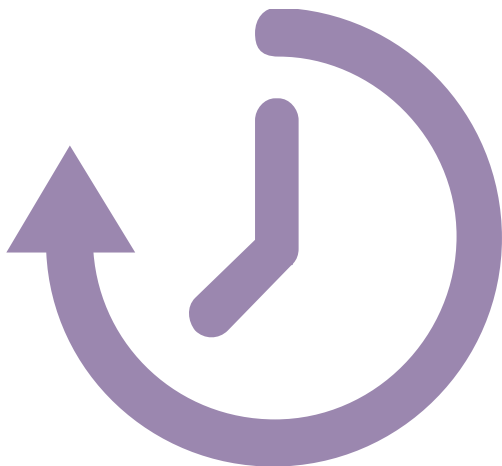
(Reference Category)



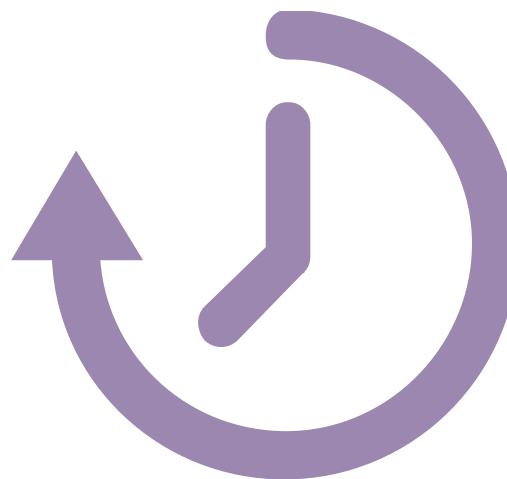
Chocolate Box
Temporaries

(Comparator)

Independent Variables: Time

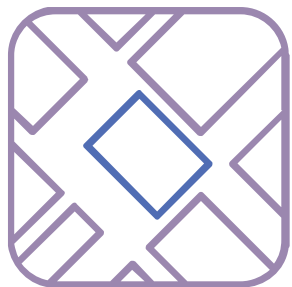


Pre-Recession
(2000-2007)



Recession and Recovery
Period
(2008-2015)

Independent Variables: Function



Land



Structures



Residual
Space



Public
Squares

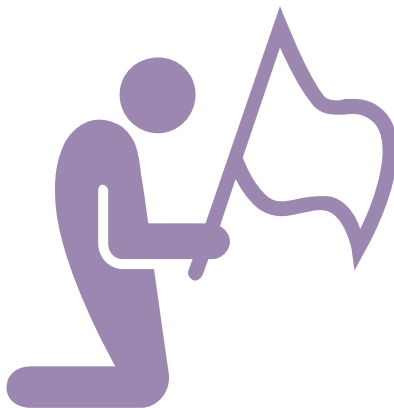


Illegal
(Across all
functions)

Independent Variables: Decision



Approve

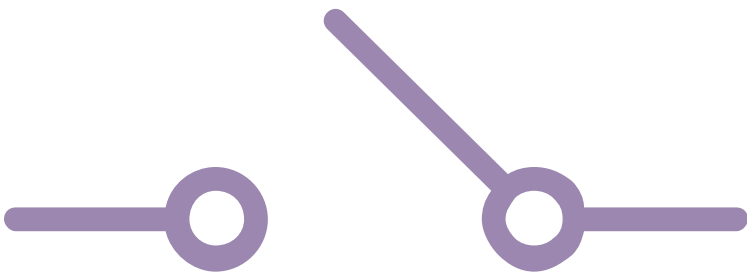


Withdraw

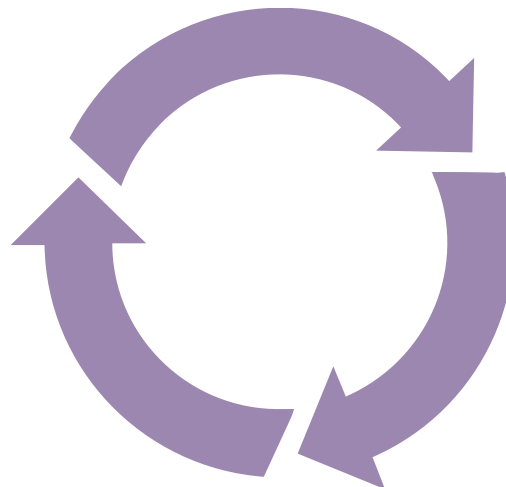


Refuse

Independent Variables: Occurrence



Isolated Temporaries



Reoccurring Temporaries

Mundane vs Chocolate Box (2000-2015)



Mundane
Temporaries

5262 (89%)



Chocolate Box
Temporaries

621 (11%)

Test of full model against constant: Statistically Significant. Chi Square value of 621 df=24 at $p < .000$

Type x Time (2000-2015)

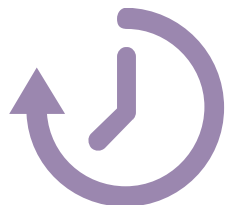
Mundane Temporaries



Chocolate Box Temporaries

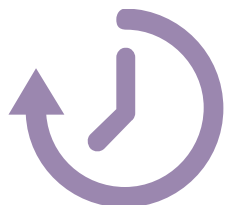


2000-07



V

2008-15*



>

The odds of Temporary Use being Chocolate Box as opposed to Mundane were **59% less likely** in the period 2000-2007 when compared to the period 2008-2015.

*Reference category.

Type x Occurrence (2000-2015)

Mundane Temporaries



Chocolate Box Temporaries



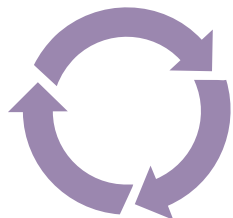
Isolated



V

The odds of a Temporary Use being Isolated as opposed to Reoccurring were **38% less likely** for Chocolate Box as opposed to Mundane.

Reoccurring*



>

*Reference category.

Type x Decision (2000-2015)

Mundane Temporaries

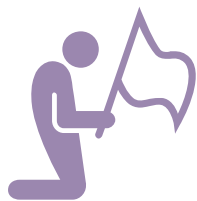
Chocolate Box Temporaries

Approve*



V

Withdraw



>

The odds of a Temporary Use Application being Withdrawn rather than Approved were **20% higher** for Chocolate Box as opposed to Mundane.

Refuse**



*Reference Category. **Not Significant.

Type x Function (2000-2015)

Mundane Temporaries



Chocolate Box Temporaries



V

Land



>

The odds of Temporary Use occurring on a Site/Land as opposed to Residual Spaces was **14x less likely** for Chocolate Box than Mundane Temporaries.

Structures



>

The odds of Temporary Use occurring in Structures as opposed to Residual Spaces was **1.6x more likely** for Chocolate Box than Mundane Temporaries.

Public Spaces



>

The odds of Temporary Use occurring within Public Spaces as opposed to Residual Spaces was **4x more likely** for Chocolate Box than Mundane Temporaries.

Residual Spaces*



*Reference Category



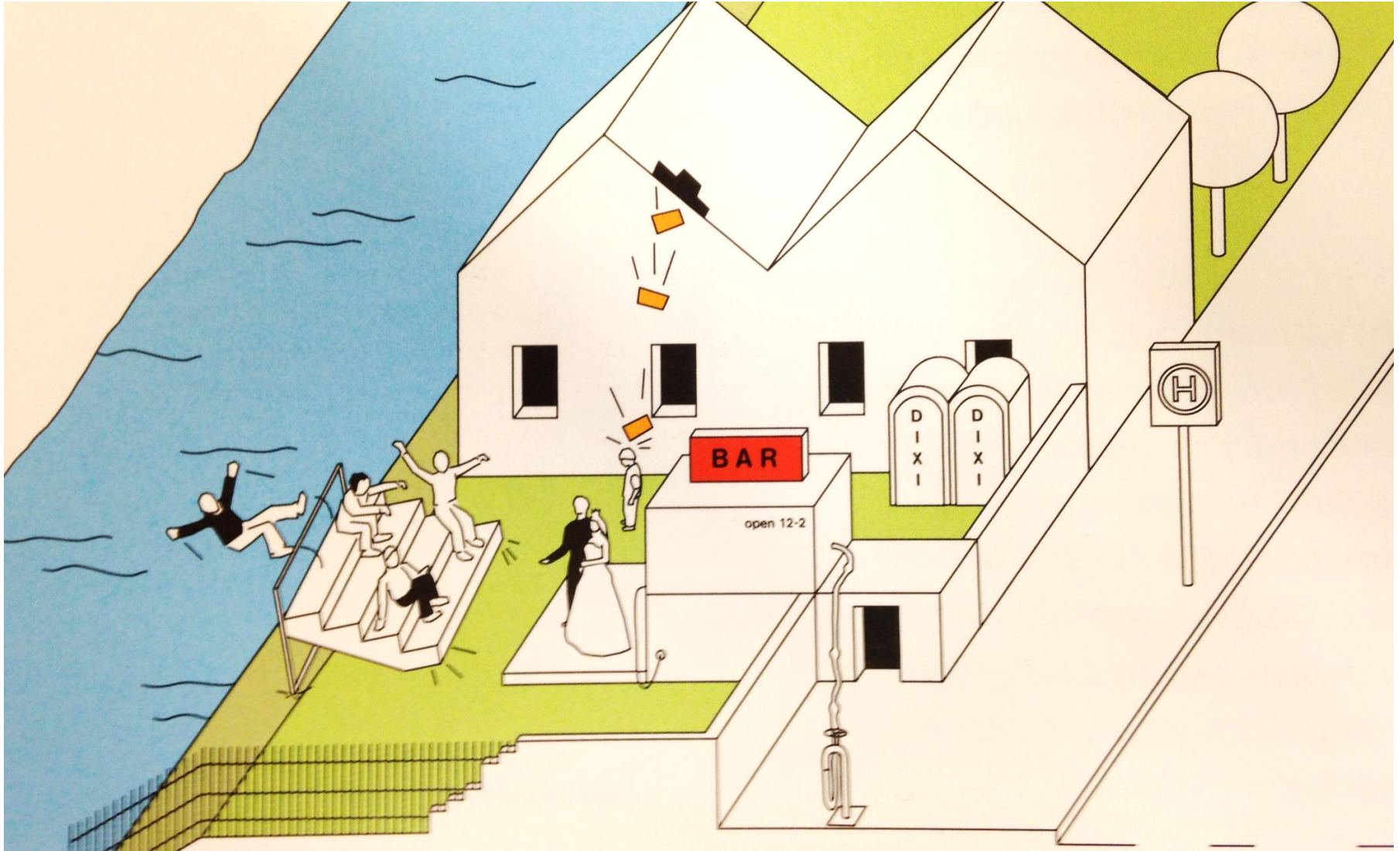
Conclusions: So What?

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So What?: A *Temporary* Reality Check...

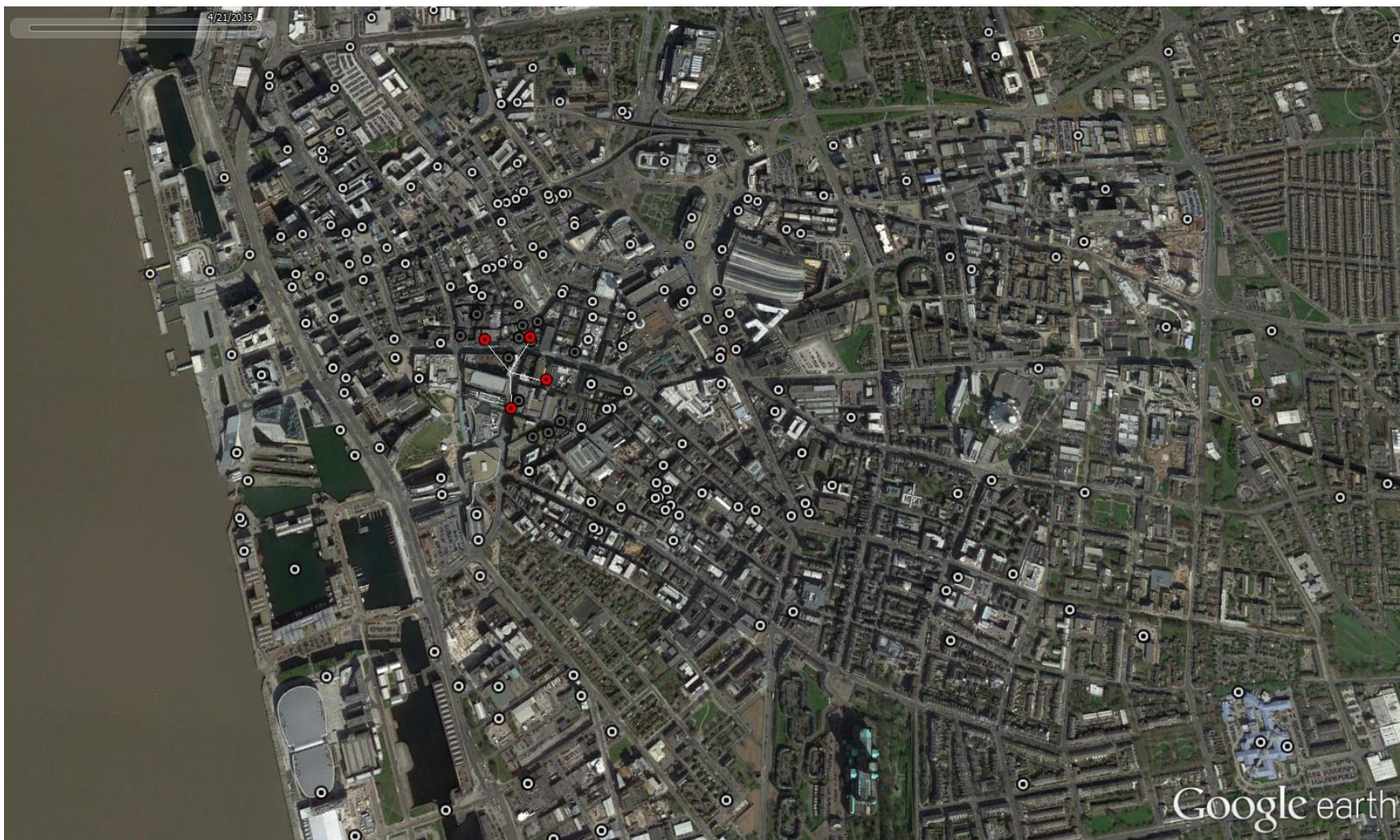


So What?: Challenging *Temporary* Assumptions

- **Informal actors** (*Groth and Corijn, 2005*)
- **non-planned**, spontaneous urbanity (*Andres, 2011*)
- integrated into an **austerity agenda** (*Tonkiss, 2013*)
- Short term use of **vacant land** (and may include temporary buildings) (*Hubman and Perkovic, 2014*)
- Temporary initiatives are **rarely deliberate actions** (*Desimini, 2015*)

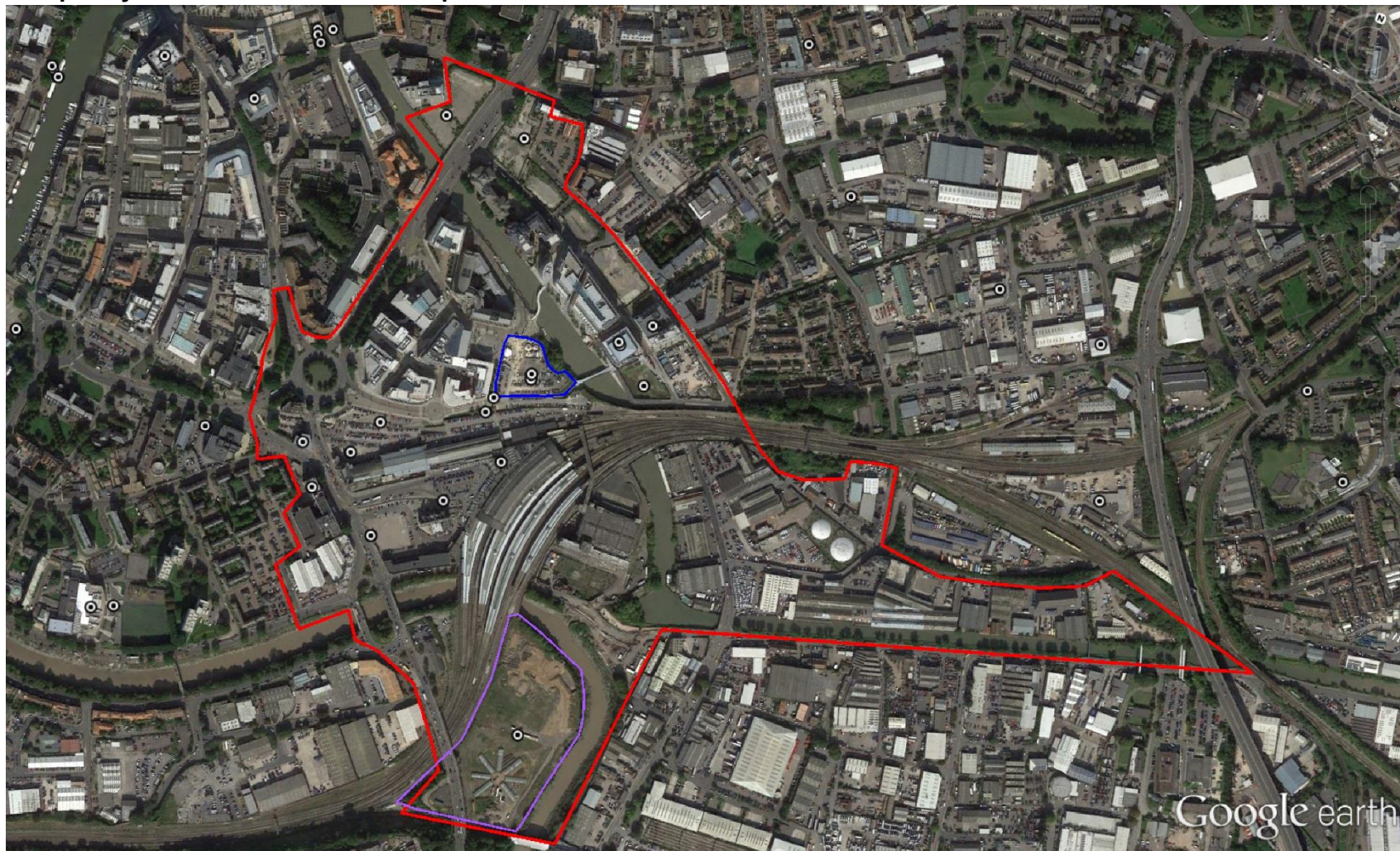
So What?: Introducing Spatial-temporal Change

Temporary Urbanism in Liverpool 2000-2015



So What?: *Temporary* Legacy Effects

Temporary Urbanism in Bristol's Temple Quarter 2000-2015



Legend

Bristol Temple Quarter



Single-state (Mundane)



Single-state (Chocolate Box)



Dual-state (Mundane>Chocolate Box)





Any Questions?

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